



## Water Resources Division's Aquatic Invasive Species of the Week!

FOR THE WEEK OF:

August 26– September 1, 2013

Killer Shrimp (*Dikerogammarus villosus*)

Member of the "Least Wanted"

**Origin:** Eastern Europe

**Current Distribution:** Has spread throughout much of western Europe. Currently, NOT IN THE U.S.

**Description:** Large amphipod- grows up to 30 mm. Large mandibles (part of the mouth). Body is flattened from side to side and consists of a head, thorax, and abdomen. Voracious predator.

**Impacts:** Prey on native shrimp and other native fauna. Disrupts ecosystems by decreasing diversity, effecting different levels of the food web, and causing local species extinction. Killer shrimp have also been documented preying upon young fish.

**Habitat:** Fresh and brackish waters- lakes, rivers, and canals

**Potential Means of Introduction:** Probable means of introduction are via ballast tanks from European ships.

**Interesting Note:** Below is a link to an interesting US Army Corps of Engineers' video of a killer shrimp attacking an aquatic sowbug. Also in the video are two zebra mussels for size comparison!

<http://el.erdc.usace.army.mil/ansrp/video/Dikerogammarusvillosus.mpg>



Photo: U.K. Environmental Agency

For more information on killer shrimp, please visit the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' website: [www.el.erdc.usace.army.mil/ansrp/ANSIS](http://www.el.erdc.usace.army.mil/ansrp/ANSIS).

For more information on other aquatic invasive species please visit Michigan DEQ's website: [www.michigan.gov/aquaticinvasives](http://www.michigan.gov/aquaticinvasives)